

IN RECOGNITION OF HONORARY
TAYLOR AUXILIARY POLICE OF-
FICER DAVE GORGON'S SERVICE
TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished public service of Dave Gorgon. He has enriched our community through his positive leadership.

Established in 1962 as a volunteer civil defense organization to assist the Taylor Police Department, the Taylor Auxiliary Police play a key role in safeguarding the public. In addition to helping the full-time police department staff community events like high school sports events and assisting with regular police patrols, the auxiliary police also serve as a reserve force to assist the City of Taylor in the event of a disaster or emergency situation. Additionally, the auxiliary has partnered with the city to further crime prevention initiatives, including Taylor on Watch, an education and outreach program that shares best practices for neighborhood and community safety. These initiatives and the service of officers are well documented by Dave Gorgon, a photographer with the City of Taylor.

Mr. Gorgon is a well-loved member of our local community who is known for his passion and leadership. Known around Downriver as "Mr. Taylor," he has served the city in various capacities, including as an interim member of the Taylor City Council and as a reporter and photographer for the Southgate News-Herald. Those who know Mr. Gorgon laud him as a special person who is always willing to go out of the way to make someone feel special, and positively impact their day. He is a strong supporter of both the Taylor Police Department and the Taylor Auxiliary Police Department and often attends events to take photos of the departments in action and share the good work being done by local officers. Taylor Auxiliary officers credit Mr. Gorgon as a positive force for the community and an irreplaceable member of the department. He is truly deserving of being named an Honorary Taylor Auxiliary Police Officer; we are grateful for his lifetime of service and positivity and look forward to his continued contributions to the Downrivers in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Dave Gorgon for his years of commitment to the community that he loves. His passion and dedicated service have bettered Taylor for years to come.

HONORING MARTINEZTOWN FOOD PANTRY

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the founders of an outstanding organization in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Celebrating the 10-year anniversary since its inception, the Martineztown Food Pantry has provided meals for thousands of families in New Mexico since 2008.

The idea for a neighborhood food pantry was sparked when a young neighbor of Brad Brown and Michael Griego knocked on the door of their home asking if they were interested in buying a pair of his shoes so that he would have money to purchase food for his young wife and child. Brown and Griego felt compelled to address the larger issue at hand and do something to help end hunger in Albuquerque.

The pair started by giving up their gym memberships and donating that money to the Roadrunner Food Bank. Eventually they would establish their own mobile food program known as the Martineztown Food Pantry. Since its creation, this program has brought together a dedicated group of volunteers in the community to pursue a noble cause. They've helped feed 32,000 families for over a decade, totaling 1,612,000 pounds of food.

Dedicated to ending hunger and preserving the dignity of citizens of New Mexico, Brown and Griego truly embody the values of humanitarianism. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Brad Brown and Michael Griego and everyone who volunteers at the Martineztown Food Pantry for their selfless dedication to improving the community, and congratulate them on all they have achieved over the last 10 years.

JONATHAN GARCIA, OLYMPIAN AND HOUSTONIAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the whirl of skate gliding across the ice transfixed spectators at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games. Competing on the ice is Olympic speed skater, Texan, and Houston native, Jonathan Garcia.

Jonathan has been speed skating since he was 7 years old. His love for skating began when he witnessed Dan Jansen win the speed skating gold medal at the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway. Ever since that time, Jonathan has passionately competed in speed skating and has enjoyed years of success.

Jonathan did not immediately begin speed skating at the ripe old age of 7, as one would assume. He first competed in roller speed skating for 14 years, before switching to speed skating in 2007. His goal was to compete in the Winter Olympic Games, and that wouldn't be possible as a roller speed skater. Jonathan, being the determined and motivated person he is, quickly took up speed skating and began competing in major competitions throughout the country.

Jonathan's first major achievement came during the 2011 to 2012 Short Track U.S. Time Trials where he earned the gold medal in the 1000 meters. After that, Jonathan's career absolutely skyrocketed. He has competed in the World Championships consistently for the past 7 years, even placing in every event he skated in.

Perhaps most impressively, Jonathan has qualified for and competed in the past two Winter Olympics. He placed 28th overall in the 1000 meters at the 2014 Sochi Olympic Winter Games.

In this year's 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, Jonathan finished 23rd in the 500 meters. He was also second among the three U.S. entries to compete in the speed skating competition.

We are beyond thrilled to have a hometown hero representing Team USA and his town of Katy, Texas. Jonathan's determination to succeed and his passion for speed skating will no doubt inspire a younger generation to compete and achieve their wildest dreams.

And that is just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 102 on H.R. 5247, I mistakenly recorded my vote as nay when I should have voted yea.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the students, teachers, and communities who work together to support our public schools during Public Education Week.

Our public schools are where our students come to be educated in the fullest sense of the word as citizens of this great country. Our educators strive daily to make every public school a place where we prepare the nation's young people to contribute to our society, economy and citizenry.

Ninety percent of American children attend public schools. Lawmakers of every level can agree that we should all support our nation's public schools and empower local education leaders to manage and lead school districts in partnership with educators, parents, and other local education stakeholders and learning communities. This support includes recognizing how educators and our schools provide important services outside the classroom such as counseling, extra/co-curricular activities, and mental health supports that are critical to help meet students' needs.

As an advocate for public education, I believe we must promote advancing excellence in public education, by implementing continuous improvement and evidence-based practices. Every child has the right to an education and to attend schools that offer a high quality experience and help them reach their full potential.

I support predictable and adequate funding for our public schools so that students have classrooms and up-to-date resources as well as well-prepared educators. Our school buildings should have manageable class sizes to allow teachers to provide students the attention they need to succeed. Furthermore, I believe that public tax dollars should support public schools that are accountable to parents, educators and the communities they serve.

As a product of the public school system in Northwest Missouri, I reiterate my support for